

Superfund Site Activity Update

What is happening at the Scovill Industrial Landfill Superfund Site?

The Superfund process, conducted in several steps over multiple years, leads to the ultimate goal of providing a safe environment for the people living and working around the Scovill Industrial Landfill. The next step in the Superfund process is to better understand the site's contamination and potential risks. Although various soil and air samples have been taken from the site, none of the soil samples have been taken from deeper than 24 inches, leaving gaps in what is known about the extent and type of contamination.

A detailed study, the **REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION**, will start late this summer to identify the type and extent of contamination at the site. This investigation will also collect the type and amount of information needed to conduct human health and ecological risk assessments. Scheduled to take place in a series of phases, the investigation's first phase will be performed by Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp., a contractor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The

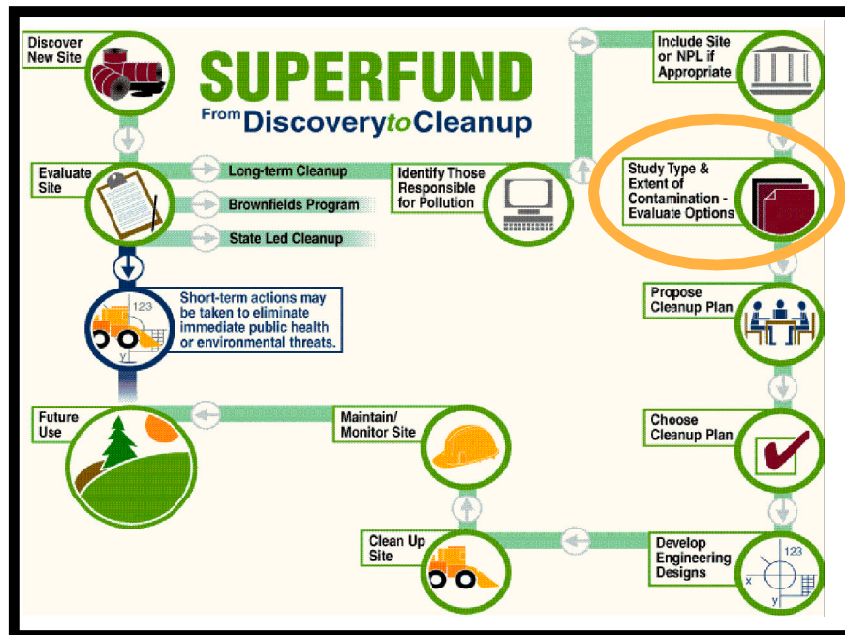
field work will be finished this fall and the results should be analyzed and made public by winter 2003.

Phase I will include seven different studies:

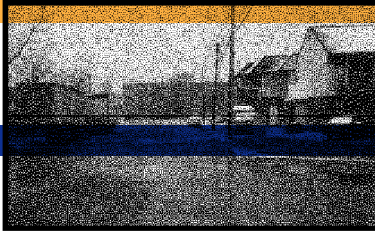
Geophysical Survey. In order to know where to drill holes to gather sub-surface soil samples, EPA needs to better understand the depth to bedrock, the approxi-

mate depth of the waste's bottom, and the approximate water table elevation. To find out this information, an exploratory geophysical survey will be performed. A series of one foot metal pins (geophones) will be put in the ground and attached to a seismograph. The pins will be hit; sending sound waves along the line of geophones

in the ground to the seismograph, which will measure the sound waves' speed (see picture on page 3). This process has the sound of a vehicle backfiring. To minimize disturbances to local residents, the survey will be done during the business hours of the work week.



Orange circle indicates step in the Superfund process the Scovill site is starting.



Exposure occurs when people eat, drink, breath or have direct skin contact with a substance or waste material.

At present, much of the Scovill landfill material is covered either with a building, paved road, parking lot, or grass.

The site doesn't present an immediate public health risk, in its current condition, because direct contact is unlikely.

Digging, gardening or other activities that might expose landfill material should not occur.

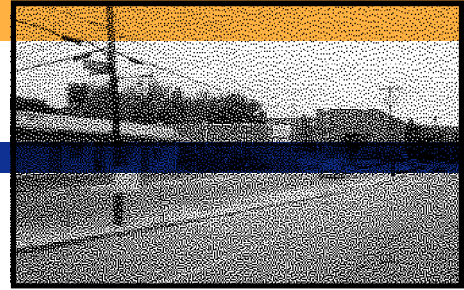
Sub-Surface Soil Sampling. To gather more information about soil contamination, approximately 40 to 50 holes will be drilled into the ground using a hollow stem auger (see above picture). These holes will be around 15 to 25 feet in depth, 6 inches wide, and will be drilled throughout the site. On-site field screening equipment will determine which soil samples have the highest level of contamination and will be sent to the laboratory for more analysis.

Utility Line Identification. Utility lines and easements will be identified and clearly marked to prevent impact or puncture from EPA's field equipment. Having a clear understanding of where the utilities exist will also be helpful in developing a better picture of where contamination exists in relationship to the utilities in the event of utility maintenance.

Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation. Groundwater is water that is found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between sand, soil, and gravel, and often serves as a principle source of drinking water. To study the groundwater, ten monitoring wells will be installed on and near the site (see well photo on page 3). The site's groundwater is not a drinking water source.

Surface Soil Sampling. Although some surface (0 to 24 inches deep) soil samples have already been taken, additional samples will be collected.

Limited Soil Gas Survey. Soil gases can be released from landfills. To investigate whether the gases are being released and are harmful, a limited soil gas survey will be done on-site. If the results show significant levels of volatile organic compounds— chemical compounds which have a tendency to



evaporate to the air from water or soil— then a more comprehensive survey may be needed.

Surface Water and Sediment Samples will also be collected and analyzed.

Although the fieldwork for Phase I of the investigation will be finished this fall, it will take several months to analyze all of the data and then compile it into a report. Results will be carefully reviewed by EPA, CT Department of Environmental Protection, CT Department of Public Health, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and Waterbury Department of Public Health. In consultation with these organizations, EPA will identify any data gaps and determine what additional studies are necessary. These studies will comprise Phase II of the investigation. Should it then be determined that there is

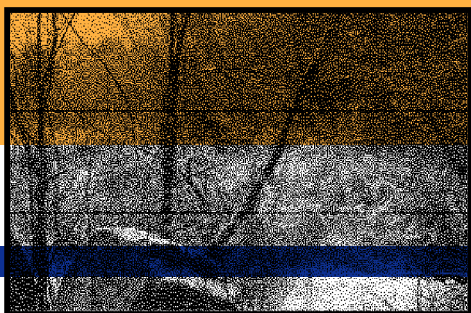
What Assistance is Available to the Community?

EPA values your input. To help communities make informed decisions, EPA can award Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) of up to \$50,000 per site. These TAGs enable communities to hire an independent expert to help them interpret technical data, understand site hazards, and become more knowledgeable about the different technologies that are being used. Your community group may be eligible for a TAG. Contact Mike McGagh for more information at 1-888-372-7341, extension 1428.

Geophysical Survey

Hitting the metal pins (geophones) attached to a seismograph.





still a need for more information, the investigation may include a Phase III. EPA will share the findings from each phase of the investigation with the public. Public meetings will be held to explain the studies, their findings, and next steps in the investigation and to get input from the public.

As mentioned, the data obtained from the Remedial Investigation is also used to conduct **HUMAN HEALTH AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENTS**. These risk assessments are EPA's way to identify current and potential future risk and will include assessments of risks under various types of possible exposures.

In addition, the CT Department of Public Health will use the information gathered in the investigation to develop an updated **PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT**. CT DPH has already reviewed contamination data from previous surface soil samples. Because very low levels of contamination were found and most of the site is covered with pavement or grass, CT DPH concluded that no health risk currently exists to residents in the area. The new public health assessment will look at potential risks from deeper soils in case digging or other activities by accident disrupt deep soil.

The information gathered in the phases of the investigation and the human health and ecological risk assessments will inform a **FEASIBILITY STUDY**. This study will identify ways to protect human health and the environment at the site. Typically it takes around three years to complete both the Remedial Investigation and the Feasibility Study, at which point, EPA will move to the next step in the Superfund process. Based on the information it gathers, EPA will propose a plan to the public which suggests what, if any, kind of action needs to be taken to prevent the risk of exposure from the site.

SITE HISTORY

Located north of Meriden Road in Waterbury, CT, the former Scovill Industrial Landfill was used by the Scovill Manufacturing Company from 1919 until the mid-1970s for disposal of ash, cinder, and other wastes. Roughly 23 of the site's 30 acres have been developed with residential structures and small commercial buildings.

August 2000 Added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL - also known as Superfund, is a list of hazardous waste sites that are eligible for Federal funding to pay for extensive, long-term cleanup actions under the Superfund program).

April 1999 EPA took samples of soil between 0 to 24 inches deep from 57 locations -- found elevated levels of organic chemicals; metals such as cadmium, nickel, silver, and zinc; & polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Indoor air sampling didn't detect contamination.

Spring 1998 CT Dept. of Environmental Protection removed 2,300 tons of PCB- contaminated soil & an additional 18 capacitors. Temporarily capped area & fenced & posted four acres.

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